

Ometo languages

The **Ometo** languages of Ethiopia are a dialect cluster of the Omotic family, generally accepted as part of the Afro-Asiatic language family. They include the most populous Omotic language, Wolaytta, with two million speakers.^[2] The languages have around 4 million speakers.

Contents

Classification

Bender (2000)

Blench (2006)

Notes

Classification

Bender (2000)

Bender (2000) classifies them as,^[2]

- South: Maale
- Basketo
- Central: Wolaytta (Ometo), Oyda (Oyta), Melo (Malo), Dorze–Gamo–Gofa–Dawro
- East: Gats'ame (Kachama–Ganjule), Koorete (Koyra, Harro), Zayse-Zergulla

Blench (2006)

Hayward (2003) added Basketo to Central Ometo and called the result 'North Ometo',^[3] a position followed by Blench (2006).

Blench (2006) lists several additional North Ometo languages, and lists Chara as unclassified within the family.^[4]

- North: Misketto (Basketto), Dokka, Doko-Dolo, Wolaitta (Welamo), Zala, Oyda, Malo, Dorze–Laha–Gamo–Gofa–Kullo-Konta–Dache, Ganjule, Gidicho, Kachama
- East: Gatame (Haruro), Zayse (+Zergula), Koore/Koyra (Badittu)
- South: Maale
- ?: Ch'ara

He also lists *Balta*, a regional name for Wolaytta, as a possibly separate language.

Ometo	
Geographic distribution	Ethiopia
Linguistic classification	Afro-Asiatic - Omotic - North Ometo
Subdivisions	South East North
Glottolog	omet1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/omet1238) ^[1]

Notes

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ometo" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/omet1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Bender, M. Lionel. 2000. *Comparative Morphology of the Omotic Languages*. Munich: LINCOM. Classification copied in Raymond G. Gordon Jr., ed. 2005. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*. 15th edition. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
3. Hayward, Richard J. 2003. 'Omotic: the "empty quarter" of Afroasiatic linguistics'. In *Research in Afroasiatic Grammar II: selected papers from the fifth conference on Afroasiatic languages, Paris 2000*, ed. by Jacqueline Lecarme, pp. 241-261. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
4. Blench, 2006. The Afro-Asiatic Languages: Classification and Reference List (<http://rogerblench.info/Language/Afroasiatic/General/AALIST.pdf>)

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